



2011

MAC PLAN

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I. Introduction

The Great Basin Multi-Agency Coordinating (GBCG) Group consists of one representative from the following agencies:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Arizona
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	Mountain Prairie, Pacific and Pacific Southwest Regions
National Park Service (NPS)	Intermountain and Pacific West Regions
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	Western Region
Forest Service (FS)	Region Four
State Agencies	Idaho, Nevada and Utah

A. Authority

The GBCG members have been delegated authority by their respective agency directors to manage wildland fire operations on a Geographic Area scope when fire management resource shortages are probable. The Geographic Area Coordination Centers (GACCs) are delegated the same authority when the GBMAC has not been activated. The delegated authorities include:

- Establish priorities of fire management activities
- Direct, control and allocate resources within the Great Basin
- Implement decisions of the NMAC/GBMAC
- Develop geographic area strategies and contingency plans

B. Preparedness Plans

Preparedness Plans direct activity for responding to increasingly severe situations (Refer to Great Basin Mobilization Guide Chapter 26). The Great Basin Coordination Centers will coordinate closely to assess the situation and needs which will include using Predictive Services to provide general prognosis of upcoming fire activity, and a more specific, state-by-state evaluation to anticipate critical fire situations. The Great Basin Coordination Center Managers will receive a Delegation of Authority each year signed by the Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group.

C. Agency Representatives Roles and Responsibilities

- Ensure agency situation status is current and information is correct.
- Determine specific resource needs.
- Determine agency resource availability.
- Provide liaison for out-of-area resources (IARR).
- Identify fiscal issues and concerns.
- Provide information and perspective to agencies wishing to proceed with prescribed fire applications as indicated on the go/no go checklist.

II. Operating Procedures

A. GBMAC Group Activation

At Great Basin Preparedness Level 3, the Great Basin Coordinating Group and Geographic Area Coordination Center Managers will discuss and consider the need to activate the MAC Group. The decision to activate the MAC Group will be based on the number of large/complex/Incident Management Team (IMT) incidents, prescribed burns scheduled, predicted weather, percentage of area crews and initial attack resources committed, and the level of competition for resources between units and/or Geographic Areas or national incidents and activity.

The Great Basin Coordinating Group and GACC Managers will also decide where the MAC Group and/or support staff should be physically located. The MAC Group will generally be located at the GACC where fire activity is most severe, although not necessarily within the Coordination Center itself. MAC Group business is generally conducted via conference calls facilitated by the MAC Coordinator. Face to face meetings are scheduled as necessary.

B. GBMAC Roles and Responsibilities

The MAC Group does not direct the Incident Management Teams or Area Command(s), who retain the authority and responsibility for on-the-ground management of the incident organization.

The roles and responsibilities of these Great Basin agency representatives are as follows:

1. Prioritize fire management activities according to **Appendix 3**, and the Initial National Response Framework and Department of Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5).
2. Allocate scarce/limited resources including all aircraft, among incidents to assure sage, productive, wildland fire management activities commensurate with the priorities identified.
3. Provide disaster coordination at the State and Federal levels as a partner in the National Response Framework.
4. Review policies/agreements for resource allocation including the NMAC Preparedness Strategy.
5. Interact with local/zone level MAC Groups to assess priorities for resource allocation and with the national level MAC Group to support the Area's resource needs.
6. Determine need and support Wildland Fire and Aviation Safety Teams (FAST) and Aviation Safety Assistance Teams (ASAT)..
7. Determine the need for and designate location(s) of mobilization and
8. Activate Prevention Teams.
9. Determine need for staging/mobilization centers.
10. Recommend staffing guidelines. Monitor the effects of short-term and cumulative fatigue.
11. Encourage and support interagency prevention and education programs.

12. Develop "geographic strategies" based on the current and anticipated fire situation projections. These projections include draw-down plans, contingency plans and trigger points to enact them.

C. Strategies and Contingency Planning

Strategic direction optimizes firefighting capabilities as the tempo and severity of the season escalates. Likely scenarios include:

- Multiple large wildland fires burning within the Great Basin.
- Demand for firefighting resources remains high.
- As season progresses, fires take hold in "long interval" fire regimes where resistance to control will become more difficult.
- Contingency resources (military, National Guard, foreign specialists) are engaged.
- High social/political anxiety as efforts moves from offensive-oriented strategies to defensive-oriented strategies.
- Fireline supervision and command oversight will be limiting factors in determining safe, effective span-of-control.

The National Preparedness Strategy introduces operational expectations, reinforces performance, and clarifies existing policies and procedures. It provides for consistent implementation of policy by Agency Administrators, Incident/Area Command Teams, and fire and aviation management personnel (Refer to NMAC Preparedness Strategy, 2011).

D. Great Basin MAC Group Meetings

Official GBMAC Meetings will be conducted either in-person or via conference call. The choice of meeting method will be determined by a consensus of GBMAC members.

a. Conference Calls

The Great Basin MAC has a scheduled conference call at 1000 MDT to exchange intelligence information and establish Geographic Area priorities. The GBMAC Coordinator will facilitate the GBMAC Call. If a dedicated MAC Coordinator is not assigned, the Center Managers at EGBCC and WGBCC will share a rotation for facilitating the call. The call time may be adjusted based on activity or to coordinate with the NMAC. The purpose of these calls is to:

- Received a timely update on incident activity and resource status.
- Outline potential resource needs.
- Discuss and establish geographic area incident and resource allocation priorities.
- Identify and resolve concerns and problems.
- Discuss Incident Management Team issues (extensions, rotations, etc.)

Conference call participants will be the GBMAC members and spokespersons for the Great Basin Coordinating Group. The GBMAC conference calls will be held

on the Eastern Great Basin Phone Bridge. The format for GBMAC Calls is **Appendix 7**.

b. In-Person Meetings

The GBMAC may decide to hold an in-person meeting rather than conference calls depending upon activity and issues that need to be addressed. The in-person meetings are usually held in Reno, Salt Lake City or Boise and are determined based on travel times, location of the MAC Coordinator or to meet with NMAC. The facility should have a meeting room with a conference phone so persons who couldn't travel can participate.

III. Coordination with other Entities

A. GBMAC/NMAC Coordination

The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) consists of one representative from the following agencies:

1. National Association of State Foresters (NASF)
2. USDA Forest Service (USFS)
3. National Park Service (NPS)
4. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)* Representative to GBMAC
5. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
6. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
7. Federal Emergency Management Agency (United States Fire Administration (FEMA-USFA))

Other Attendees will be authorized by the Directors:

1. National Weather Service (Meteorologist-in-Charge)
2. External Affairs
3. General Services Administration (GSA)
4. Military Liaison
5. Aviation Management (AMD, USFS, BLM, etc.)

NMAC has written delegated authority from their respective agency heads to represent their agency on all matters related to wildland fire operations. This includes membership on the NMAC, determining national priorities, and allocating/reallocating resources.

Responsibilities include:

1. Determine and set National priorities.
2. Direct, control, allocate or reallocate resources among or between Geographic Areas to meet NMAC priorities.
3. Provide policy modification and direction for procedures, standards, and methods.

4. Coordinate information and situation assessments between agencies and publics.

The NMAC will initiate conference calls with GBMACs as the situation warrants.

The NMAC requires information from the GBMAC to prioritize and allocate resources in accordance with the National Strategy. GBMAC will be asked to provide a description of the process being utilized to establish priorities. Additionally, GBMAC should provide an assessment of the current overall situation which includes an analysis of whether the situation should improve or deteriorate of the next seven days. Descriptions of risks associated with specific incidents that may pose a threat to communities or critical infrastructure is paramount. GBMAC will submit information and priority matrix to NICC via e-mail to NICC_Intell@nifc.blm.gov and kachristensen@fs.fed.us.

When situations warrant, NMAC will require rationale and information for assignment of Type 1 Incident Management Teams and Area Command teams (**Appendix 2**).

At National Preparedness Levels 4 and 5, list specific resources required to accomplish priority incident objectives and describe whether those needs can be met from within the Geographic Area or not.

The NMAC will provide a liaison to the GBMAC to coordinate issues and concerns.

B. Local MAC Groups

The closer to the incident decisions are made the easier implementation and better decisions are made to meet the true need. Local MAC Groups that are timely in implementation often reduce the influence of and/or need for higher-level MAC Group activations.

C. GBMAC and Incident Management Teams/Area Command Coordination

GBMAC will need to establish expectations with Incident Management Teams, including incoming out-of-area Incident Management Teams/Area Commands for how they will interact with GBMAC. It is important to stress the need for intelligence and accurate resource status and location. This information assists in setting geographic area priorities and allocation of resources.

Information for incoming incident management teams is usually communicated to the Incident Commander by the GACC Manager or the Great Basin MAC Coordinator.

- Intelligence info goes to local/GACC dispatch and GBMAC.
- IC's need to be on GB IC call each day (0800MDT).
- Respond to GBMAC data requests.

- All resource availability and release information needs to be passed to local dispatch/GACC and GBMAC.

IV. Support Organization Roles and Responsibilities

A. MAC Group Coordinator (MCCO)

Initially, the Center Manager of the GACC carries out the duties of the MAC Coordinator. If desired, a qualified MAC Coordinator may be brought in to relieve the Center Manager of this workload.

MAC Group Coordinator Qualifications

Recommended: Attendance of M-480 and/or Great Basin MAC Refresher or Workshop

Required: In-depth knowledge of the WFSa/WFIP/WFDSS/209 process. Familiar with protocols based on National and Area Preparedness Levels. Knowledge of the dispatch/coordination system, ICS, NIMS and Incident Management Team protocols.

Roles and Responsibilities of the MAC Coordinator

The MAC Coordinator, through written letter of delegation of authority (**Appendix 1**) performs the following:

1. Determines need for support staff including, administrative assistance, Aviation Coordinator, Fire Behavior Analyst, etc.
2. Coordinates with the GACC Predictive Services section to assure that required information is being provided to the MAC Group within the time frames specified.
3. Arranges for and manages the facilities and equipment necessary to carry out the MAC Group functions.
4. Assists the MAC Group decision process by facilitating the group's conference calls and/or meetings according to established GBMAC protocol (**Appendix 7**).
5. Reviews ICS-209, SIT Reports, WFDSS and other information for each incident in order to complete the Priority Decision Matrix and the Incident Prioritization Worksheet (**Appendices 5 & 6**).
6. Documents the MAC Group's decisions and coordinates with the GACC Managers (if the Center Manager/MAC Coordinator functions have been separated) to assure their prompt I implementation.

7. Disseminates conference call/meeting notes, incident priority lists, NMAC correspondence and other MAC Group related information.

B. MAC Aviation Coordinator

The Geographic Area Aviation Coordinator works directly for GBMAC. The Geographic Aviation Coordinator is the single point of authority as delegated by the GBMAC Group.

The MAC Aviation Coordinator(s) are most effective when located at each Coordination Center (EGBCC and WGBCC) respectively. They are generally activated at Preparedness Level 3 when large incidents are occurring; or heavy, long-term initial or extended attack where a large numbers of non-local aircraft are stationed within or assigned to a unit for an extended period of time.

MAC Aviation Coordinator Qualifications

Recommended: Fully qualified as an Air Operations Branch Director (AOBD).

Required: Experience as an agency aviation program manager. In depth knowledge of the dispatch/coordination system, management of national aviation resources, and aviation management strategies based on National and Area Preparedness levels. It is also recommended that the individual has completed the Great Basin MAC Training.

Roles and Responsibilities of MAC Aviation Coordinator

The Geographic Area AC is responsible for the following:

1. Make recommendations regarding aerial assets when GBMAC establishes priorities.
2. Establish aircraft allocation and reallocation for both Initial Attack and Large Fire support based on priorities established by GBMAC and NMAC.
3. Track aircraft use and establish a report to the as required by NMAC, GBMAC, and/or GACCs.
4. Inform GMAC of the capabilities and limitations of the aerial assets assigned to the geographic area based on current and expected fire load.
5. The MAC Aviation Coordinator will work with the GB Coordination Centers/GBMAC to manage the resources under the total mobility concept, which emphasizes positioning resources in areas with the greatest fire potential and the greatest probability of success based on Predictive Services information.

Indicators for need of a MAC Aviation Coordinator:

- Multiple outstanding orders.
- Aviation complexities.
- Un-staffed/Minimally staffed aircraft.
- Escalating aviation incidents.
- Complex airspace intrusions.
- Inequitable distribution of resources.
- Allocation of resources to lower priorities.

MAC Aviation Conference Call

- Share field information.
- Safety issues.
- Resource shortages.
- Potential sharing of resources.
- Area Situation Reports.
- Aviation related weather.
- Communications issues.
- Contractor issues.
- Resolution of issues among field units.

C. **Airspace Coordinator**

When the Great Basin MAC is in session the airspace workload is usually at a point where de-confliction and all Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) need to be implemented in an expeditious manner. The Airspace Coordinator provides assistance to the local dispatch centers during periods when large fire and/or heavy initial/extended attack is occurring requiring extensive coordination, monitoring, and follow up with FAA and/or DOD. At times, both Great Basin Coordination Centers require a dedicated Airspace Coordinator. The position may also be required at the initial attack dispatch center.

Qualifications: The Airspace Coordinator is a Technical Specialist (THSP) position not formally identified within the ICS system. Airspace Coordinators are ordered through the National Airspace Coordinator who maintains a roster and usually has them pre-identified.

D. **Communications Coordinator**

A Communications Coordinator (COMC) must be assigned when a second 4390 Starter System is assigned to any incident with a one hundred mile radius of the first assigned 4390 system. When the Great Basin MAC is activated this is generally the situation. One Communications Coordinator may be able to cover the entire Great Basin. During periods of heavy activity between both Eastern Great Basin and Western Great Basin a COMC may need to be assigned to each GACC.

Qualifications: Communications Coordinators are ordered through the NIRSC Communications Duty Officer and are pre-identified.

E. Wildland Fire Decisions Support System Specialist (WFDSS) Specialist

F. GACC Predictive Services

The current seasonal and monthly outlooks are available on the Great Basin Coordination Center's Websites:

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/wgbc>

<http://gacc.nifc.gov/egbc/>

In order to support the MAC Group's requirements that situation, resource status, and fire behavior information is accurate and current, the GACC Predictive Services sections will expand as needed. This may involve splitting the function into separate Situation, Resource, and Fire Behavior Units under the Intelligence Coordinator and/or Fire Weather Program Manager's direction.

All information will be collected via existing dispatch/coordination channels and given to the MAC coordinator for consolidation and presentation to the MAC Group. Unless constrained by extremely tight time frames, any requests for information in addition to the required products listed below will flow back down through the MAC Coordinator the GACC Predictive Services sections for collection. Conversely, the MAC Group will keep the Predictive Services section informed of any individually collected information.

Depending on complexity, the MAC Group will assess the need to assign and Information Officer to the group.

V. Information Requirements

A. GB MAC Requirements

<i>Information Type</i>	<i>Source</i>
Resource Status (Available/Committed)	GACC web sites, SIT Report, WildCAD, ROSS/COGNOS, Great Basin Prioritization Tool and other data bases.
Summary of outstanding resource requests	ICS-209, ROSS, GACC data bases
Resources available for re-assignment	ROSS, Demob Plans, Resource Availability Lists
Incident Status Information Incident Priorities	Needed for each incident: ICS-209 WFDSS Large Fire Narrative Incident Action Plan Map Press Releases Fire Closures Priority Decision Matrix
Fire Behavior Information	GACC FBAN Incident FBAN's
Short/Long Range Weather Forecasts	GACC Meteorologists National Weather Service

B. NMAC Information Requirements

NMAC requires incident information from each Geographic Area via the NMAC Incident Prioritization Worksheet (**Appendix 4**). Information required to complete the worksheet includes:

- Incidents prioritized by name as established by GB MAC.
- Communities and critical infra-structure threatened.
- Probability of occurrence within the next seven days.
- Prioritize the numbers and types of critical resources needed (from external sources) to mitigate the identified threats.
- Critical objectives to be accomplished if critical resources are made available.

V. MAC Group Products

The flow of information regarding MAC Group decisions is from the MAC Coordinator through the dispatch/coordination system or through individual members to their agencies for implementation.

A. Great Basin Priority Worksheet

On a daily basis, the MAC Group can be expected to issue an Incident Situation Summary that will provide a short overview of the situation within the Great Basin, along with the following:

1. Prioritized list of fires and additional resources to be assigned (as they become available).
2. Immediate recommended actions (mitigation).
3. Next most serious concerns – not yet acted upon.
4. Suggestions to mitigate concerns, such as;
 - a. Activate Aviation Safety (ASAT) and or Fire and Aviation Safety (FAST) teams.
 - b. Activate portable FAA tower operations.
 - c. Change pilot duty limitations. Require adequate notice before release or reassignment of resources.
 - d. Train local workforce and/or hire more AD personnel, including fire crews.
 - e. Recommend activation of Mobilization Centers.
 - f. Maintain supporting documentation.
 - g. Dissemination of conference call and meeting notes.

B. Great Basin Priority Decision Matrix

The GB Priority Decision Matrix form (included in **Appendix 6** of this plan) will be completed for each large wildland and prescribed fire during Preparedness Levels 3, 4 and 5, based on intelligence information submitted in response to the requirements in Section IV, A. above. This will allow each incident to be given a numerical ranking for each of the following elements:

1. Firefighter safety.
2. Public safety.
3. Objectives.
4. Duration of resource commitment.
5. Improvements to be protected.
6. Cultural and natural resource values.
7. Social, economic and political impacts/concerns.
8. Economic considerations/cost containment.
9. Threats to boundaries.

Within each ranking element, three different point values can be chosen in order to reflect the complexity of the incident. Total points are derived by multiplying the value assigned by the weighting factor (value assigned x weighting factor = total points). The matrix can be adjusted to reflect changing situations. Insure weight factor total remains 33. It is critical that the MAC Coordinator determine if the desired result is reflected in results.

VI.

Appendices